

**TESTIMONY IN AFRICAN INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES
FACING A TECHNOLOGICAL AGE**

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ABSTRACT

Overwhelmingly, African indigenous knowledge due to its rooted traditional and culturally based approach, suffers from marked biases/prejudices in the face of Western considerations and techno- science. The conceptualization of testimony as a central instrument (watchdog) in African epistemologico-environmental challenges highlights the fact that there is no antagonism with technology. This article estimates that integrating such an element in environmental conservation constitutes an opportunity for tele-guiding technological development; focusing on communalism, ethics of care and responsibility, promotion of human dignity, and welfare. Testimony as a cosmo-ontological guide and moral authority enjoys reliability and trust; fostering responsible technological innovation and progress. Fundamental features of testimony in African epistemology (reliability on communitarian framework/oral tradition), and moral authority as custodians of environmental preservation or sustenance, leads to confrontation with technological exigencies. Nevertheless, prospects and perspectives of testimony in indigenous knowledge influencing environmental concerns (as gadfly: check and balances), cautions against an epistemology and ethics of care, technological progress versus social disruption, integration of responsible innovation, and challenges of belief, truth, and justification. Consequently, testimony in African epistemology enhances a framework of values (care, solidarity, and social cohesion); ensuring that technology serves human and ecological flourishing, by reconciling nature exploration apropos technological advancements. Ultimately, scientific investigations alongside testimonial epistemic trust, encounters challenges of second-order assessment, trustworthiness, taboos, and occasional distrust of scientific expert testimony.

KEY TERMS: *Testimony, indigenous-knowledge, environmental- challenges, Technological age*

BRIEF ACADEMIC PROFILE:

Holder of Doctorate Degree in Philosophy (PhD), specializing in Epistemology (African Indigenous Knowledge in particular); obtained from the Pontifical Antonianum University, Rome. At moment, he is a lecturer of philosophy at the Catholic University of Cameroon (CATUC), Bamenda.